A True and Perfect

NARRATIVE

OF THE

Late Terrible and Bloody Murther of

Sir EDMONDBERRY GODFREY;

Who was found Murthered on *Thursday* the 17 of this Instant *October*, in a Field near *Primrose-hill*.

WITH

A full Accompt of the manner of his being Murthered, And in what manner he was found.

ALSO

The Full Proceedings of the Coroner, who sat upon the Inquest, *&c.*

With Allowance.

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A True and Perfect Relation of that Horrid and Bloody Murder Committed upon the Body of Sr. Edmondberry Godfrey.

SIR *Edmonaberry Godfrey*'s Death being the ſad occaſion of this Narrative, and the Subject of moſt Peoples Diſcourſe: I ſhall (to prevent any falſe or Sirreptitious ſtoris that are uſually carried abroad about things of this Nature) give the Reader this true and Impartial account thereof.

On the 12*th.* of this inſtant *October*, being *Saturday*, about Nine of the Clock in the Morning, Sr. *Edmondberry Godfrey* went out of his own Houſe in *Greens lane* in the *Strand* about his Occaſions: And was ſeen not long after near *Marybone*, but then ſuppoſed to be going home: and was at one of the Church wardens of the Pariſh of St. *Martins in the Fields* about ſome buſineſs at Twelve of the Clock the ſame day: But ſo it was, that he came not to his own Houſe that night, according to his uſual Cuſtom, nor gave any notice to his Servants of

any buſineſs that he had to hinder his returning that night, (and from that time till *Thurſday* the 17*th*. of the ſame Month, about Six a Clock at Night, no tydings could be heard of him (although all Earneſt and diligent Inquiries and Searches were made for him.) At which time his Dead body was found dead in a Ditch upon the South ſide of *Primroſe-hill*, near *Hampſtead*. The occaſion of his being found was this: One *Promley* a Baker, and *Waters* a Farrier, both of the Pariſh of St. *Giles's* in the Fields; having an occaſion to go to the Houſe, commonly call'd the *White-houſe* near *Primroſe-hill*; and going over the Field where the Body of Sr. *Edmonberry* lay, ſaw, as they thought, a Sword and Belt, and a Stick and a Pair of Gloves lying together hard by the Hedge ſide, but they went not near to medle with them, ſuppoſing they had belonged to ſome perſon that was gone into the Ditch to eaſe himſelf. And when they came to the *White-houſe*, they told *John Rawſon* (the man of the ſaid Houſe) that they had ſeen a Sword and Belt, and a Pair of Gloves and ſtick lye in that place: whereupon *John Rawſon* aſked them, why they did not bring them thither: They told him they did not know but there might be ſome Body hard by to own them: *Rawſon* told them again; That there had been ſeveral Soldiers thereabout this Week a Hedghog-hunting, and it may be (ſaid he) ſome of them may have left them behind them.

After, ſome further Diſcourſe, *Rawſon* agreed to go with the two men to the place, and if they found the things there, then *Rawſon* was to give them a Shilling to

to Drink, and was to take the things to his own House, till some body came thither to own them; and thereupon they went together to the place; When they came there, they found onely a Belt and a Scabbard, and a Stick, and a pair of Gloves, but no Sword: which as *Rawson* was stooping to take up, he thought he saw some thing like a man in the Ditch hard by, and so going to the Ditch, there they saw a man lying, as they suppos'd upon his belly, with a sword run thorow him, and the point appearing about seven or eight inches above his back, upon this they went immediately to the Church warden of the Parish, to give him an account of it; but he being sick, sent them to Mr. *Brown's* the Constable, who presently taking with him several Neighbours and House-keepers, went to the place where the body lay: which was in a dry Ditch upon the South-side of *Primrose hill*, about two Fields distant from the *White house*: The posture in which he lay was this, he had a sword run into him just under his left pap, which came out upon the right side of his back, about seven or eight inches; one of his Hands being doubled under, on which he seemed to lean, the other Hand lying upon the Bank, his Hair Chamlet Coat being turned up over his Head; his Hat and Perriwig being among the bushes over his Head, but no Band nor Cravat could be found about him; although when he went from Home, he had a large lac'd Band on.

The Constable and the rest that were with him being about a dozen, having taken good notice of the manner of his lying, caused him to be removed, the sword

Sword drawn out of his body; concerning which sword it is observable, that the point of it which came out at his back was covered all over with blood, and that part which was in his body was black, without any blood upon it.

The Constable haveing caus'd the Body to be removed to the *White-House*, and knowing it to be the body of Sir *Edmondberry Godfrey*, he caused his Pockets to be searched, and found in one of them in one paper six Guineys, and in another paper four broad pieces of Gold, and a half Crown; and in the other Pocket two Rings, whereof one was a Diamond, one Guine and four pound in silver, and two small peices of Gold, and one Ring he had upon one of his fingers; His Pocket Book (in which he used to take notes of Examinations) being only missing.

On *Friday* the 18th. of this instant, Mr. *Cooper* the Coronor of *Midlesex*, impannel'd a Jury at the *White-House* to inquire about the occasion of the death of the said Sir *Edmondberry*: and two Chyrurgions, (having been first sworn) viewed the Body in the presence of the Coronor and the Jury; and found two wounds about it, which one of the Chyrurgions searched with his Probe, and found one of them not above an inch deep, the Probe going against one of his Ribs; but the other being a little below the left Pap, went quite thorow the Body: his face was of a fresh colour, though in his life time very pale somewhat swell'd, and a green circle about his Neck as if he had been strangled, his blood being settled about his Neck, Throat, and the upper part of

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his Breaſt: The Chyrurgions having viewed the Body, delivered their Judgments, That the wounds they found about him, were not the cauſe of his death, but that he was ſuffocated before the wounds were made. And that which may fully perſwade any perſon of the truth thereof, is, That there was not one drop of Blood to be found in the place where he lay, nor the leaſt appearance of any ſuch thing: though the ditch was dry, and it might have been eaſily ſeen, if there had been any. Another thing was, That the very bottom of the ſoles of his Shoes were as clean as if he had but juſt come out of his own Chamber; which was an evident ſign that he was carried thither.

A third thing very remarkable is, That one of the jury affirmed, That a ſervant of his Mothers (whois owner of the ground where the body lay) with a Butcher and two Boyes, made a very ſtrict and narrow ſearch in all parts of that ground for a Calf that was miſſing, upon *Munday* and *Tueſday* laſt, and at that time there lay no dead Body, Belt, Gloves, Stick or other things there.

Now becauſe ſeveral falſe Reports have gone abroad, tending to the Diſhonour of this worthy Deceaſed Knight, as though he had been diſcontented about ſome Moneys owing by him to the Pariſh, and upon that account ſhould make himſelf away? The Relator thinks good to teſtifie to the world, That to his own knowledge Sir *Edmondberry* lent the Pariſh, above 300*l* without Intereſt, a good part of which is yet unpaid, ſo pal-

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pable an untruth it is, that ſome wicked perſons have ſpread abroad about him. But it is no wonder that thoſe inhumane wretches that have taken away his life, ſhould go alſo about to blaſt his reputation.

One thing more I cannot omit to mention, having received it from the mouth of one of the late Churchwardens of the Pariſh where he lived; which is, That Sir *Edmondberry* not long ago gave him an hundred pound to beſtow upon ſuch poor people in the Pariſh as he knew were in want: Neither was that the firſt time that Sir *Edmondberry* had imployed him in work of that nature, having often made him the diſtributer of his charity, becauſe he did not deſire the applauſe of men for it. This without all doubt proceeded from ſo remarkable and ſo ſincere a piety. That though it may be commended, I am afraid it will ſcarce be imitated.

FINIS.